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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for processing foreign protocol requests across a system area network, the method comprising:
receiving a request from a device utilizing a protocol which is foreign to a protocol utilized by the system area network;
10 encapsulating the request in a data packet; and
sending the data packet to a requested node via the system area network fabric.
- 15 2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the request is a first request, the data packet is a first data packet, and the sending the data packet comprises sending the data packet on a first virtual lane, and further comprising:
receiving a second request from a device utilizing a
20 protocol which is foreign to the protocol utilized by the system area network;
encapsulating the second request in a second data packet; and
responsive to a determination that the first and
25 second requests are to be kept in order, sending the second data packet to a requested node via the first virtual lane on the system area network fabric.
- 30 3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the request is a first request, the data packet is a first data packet, and the sending the data packet comprises

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receiving the second data packet;
decoding the second data packet to determine that
the interrupt is complete.

8. The method as recited in claim 1, further
10 comprising:

9. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the steps of receiving a request, encapsulating the request, and sending the data packet are performed by a host channel adapter.

25 11. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the steps of receiving, at the requested node, the data packet, decoding the data packet, and transmitting the foreign protocol request are performed by a target channel adapter.

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12. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the steps

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across a system area network, the method comprising:
receiving a data packet from a system area network
fabric;

- 5 determining that the data packet contains an
encapsulated foreign protocol transmission;
decoding the data packet to obtain the foreign
protocol transmission; and
sending the foreign protocol transmission to a
requested device.

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19. The method as recited in claim 18, wherein the
foreign protocol is a peripheral component interconnect
bus protocol.

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20. The method as recited in claim 18, wherein the
requested device is an input/output adapter.

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21. The method as recited in claim 18, wherein the steps
of receiving, determining, decoding, and sending are
performed by a target channel adapter.

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22. The method as recited in claim 18, wherein the steps
of receiving, determining, decoding, and sending are
performed by a host channel adapter.

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23. The method as recited in claim 22, wherein the step
of sending comprises converting the foreign protocol
request to an appropriate host transaction.

24. A computer program product in a computer readable
media for use in a networked data processing system for

processing foreign protocol requests across a system area network, the computer program product comprising:

second instructions for encapsulating the request in a data packet; and

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fifth instructions for encapsulating the second request in a second data packet; and

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fourth instructions for receiving a second request from a device utilizing a protocol which is foreign to the protocol utilized by the system area network;

5 fifth instructions for encapsulating the second request in a second data packet; and

sixth instructions, responsive to a determination that the first and second requests should be able to bypass the other, for sending the second data packet to a requested node via a second virtual lane on the system
10 area network fabric.

27. The computer program product as recited in claim 24, wherein the request is an interrupt received by a target channel adapter and further comprising:

15 fourth instructions for receiving the data packet, at a host channel adapter, and decoding the data packet to retrieve the interrupt; and

fifth instructions for interrupting the processor.

20 28. The computer program product as recited in claim 27, wherein the data packet is a first data packet and further comprising:

sixth instructions for receiving, at the host channel adapter, an end of interrupt instruction;

25 seventh instructions for encapsulating the end of interrupt instruction into a second data packet; and

eighth instructions for transmitting the second data packet to the target channel adapter via the system area network fabric.

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29. The computer program product as recited in claim 28,

further comprising:

tenth instructions for decoding the second data packet to determine that the interrupt is complete.

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fourth instructions for receiving, at the requested node, the data packet;

sixth instructions for transmitting the foreign protocol request to an appropriate device.

25 33. The computer program product as recited in claim 24,
wherein the requested node is a target channel adapter.

34. The computer program product as recited in claim 31,
wherein the instructions for receiving, at the requested
30 node, the data packet, decoding the data packet, and
transmitting the foreign protocol request are performed

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by a target channel adapter.

35. The computer program product as recited in claim 31,
wherein the instructions for receiving, at the requested
5 node, the data packet, decoding the data packet, and
transmitting the foreign protocol request are performed
by a host channel adapter.

36. The computer program product as recited in claim 31,
10 wherein the instructions for transmitting the foreign
protocol request comprises converting the request to an
appropriate host transaction.

37. The computer program product as recited in claim 24,
15 wherein the instructions for receiving a request,
encapsulating the request, and sending the data packet
are performed by a target channel adapter.

38. The computer program product as recited in claim 24,
20 wherein the requested node is a host channel adapter.

39. The computer program product as recited in claim 24,
wherein the instructions for encapsulating the foreign
protocol request comprises placing the request into a
25 data packet with appropriate headers and trailers in the
data packet to ensure that the data packet is delivered
across the system area network fabric to the requested
node.

30 40. The computer program product as recited in claim 31,
wherein the instructions for decoding the data packet

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comprises determining that the data packet contains a foreign protocol request and removing the foreign protocol request from the data packet.

- 5 41. A computer program product in a computer readable media for use in a data processing system for processing foreign protocol requests across a system area network, the computer program product comprising:

10 first instructions for receiving a data packet from a system area network fabric;

second instructions for determining that the data packet contains an encapsulated foreign protocol transmission;

15 third instructions for decoding the data packet to obtain the foreign protocol transmission; and

fourth instructions for sending the foreign protocol transmission to a requested device.

- 20 42. The computer program product as recited in claim 41, wherein the foreign protocol is a peripheral component interconnect bus protocol.

25 43. The computer program product as recited in claim 41, wherein the requested device is an input/output adapter.

30 44. The computer program product as recited in claim 41, wherein the instructions for receiving, determining, decoding, and sending are performed by a target channel adapter.

45. The computer program product as recited in claim 41,

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wherein the instructions for receiving, determining, decoding, and sending are performed by a host channel adapter.

5 46. The computer program product as recited in claim 45, wherein the instructions for sending comprises converting the foreign protocol request to an appropriate host transaction.

10 47. A system for processing foreign protocol requests across a system area network, the system comprising:
first means for receiving a request from a device utilizing a protocol which is foreign to a protocol utilized by the system area network;
15 second means for encapsulating the request in a data packet; and
third means for sending the data packet to a requested node via the system area network fabric.

20 48. The system as recited in claim 47, wherein the request is a first request, the data packet is a first data packet, and the sending the data packet comprises sending the data packet on a first virtual lane, and further comprising:

25 fourth means for receiving a second request from a device utilizing a protocol which is foreign to the protocol utilized by the system area network;
fifth means for encapsulating the second request in a second data packet; and
30 sixth means, responsive to a determination that the first and second requests are to be kept in order, for

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sending the second data packet to a requested node via the first virtual lane on the system area network fabric.

49. The system as recited in claim 47, wherein the request is a first request, the data packet is a first data packet, and the sending the data packet comprises sending the data packet on a first virtual lane, and further comprising:

fourth means for receiving a second request from a device utilizing a protocol which is foreign to the protocol utilized by the system area network;

fifth means for encapsulating the second request in a second data packet; and

sixth means, responsive to a determination that the first and second requests should be able to bypass the other, for sending the second data packet to a requested node via a second virtual lane on the system area network fabric.

50. The system as recited in claim 47, wherein the request is an interrupt received by a target channel adapter and further comprising:

fourth means for receiving the data packet, at a host channel adapter, and decoding the data packet to retrieve the interrupt; and

fifth means for interrupting the processor.

51. The system as recited in claim 50, wherein the data packet is a first data packet and further comprising:

sixth means for receiving, at the host channel adapter, an end of interrupt instruction;

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seventh means for encapsulating the end of interrupt instruction into a second data packet; and

5 eighth means for transmitting the second data packet to the target channel adapter via the system area network fabric.

52. The system as recited in claim 51, further comprising:

ninth means for receiving the second data packet;

10 tenth means for decoding the second data packet to determine that the interrupt is complete.

53. The system as recited in claim 47, wherein the foreign protocol is a peripheral component interconnect
15 bus protocol.

54. The system as recited in claim 47, further comprising:

20 fourth means for receiving, at the requested node, the data packet;

fifth means for decoding the data packet to obtain the foreign protocol request; and

sixth means for transmitting the foreign protocol request to an appropriate device.

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55. The system as recited in claim 47, wherein the steps of receiving a request, encapsulating the request, and sending the data packet are performed by a host channel adapter.

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56. The system as recited in claim 47, wherein the

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requested node is a target channel adapter.

58. The system as recited in claim 54, wherein the means
10 for receiving, at the requested node, the data packet,
decoding the data packet, and transmitting the foreign
protocol request are performed by a host channel adapter.

60. The system as recited in claim 47, wherein the means
20 for receiving a request, encapsulating the request, and
sending the data packet are performed by a target channel
adapter.

62. The system as recited in claim 47, wherein the means for encapsulating the foreign protocol request comprises placing the request into a data packet with appropriate headers and trailers in the data packet to ensure that the data packet is delivered across the system area

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network fabric to the requested node.

63. The system as recited in claim 54, wherein the means for decoding the data packet comprises determining that
5 the data packet contains a foreign protocol request and removing the foreign protocol request from the data packet.

64. A system for processing foreign protocol requests
10 across a system area network, the system comprising:
first means for receiving a data packet from a system area network fabric;
second means for determining that the data packet contains an encapsulated foreign protocol transmission;
15 third means for decoding the data packet to obtain the foreign protocol transmission; and
fourth means for sending the foreign protocol transmission to a requested device.

65. The system as recited in claim 64, wherein the
20 foreign protocol is a peripheral component interconnect bus protocol.

66. The system as recited in claim 64, wherein the
25 requested device is an input/output adapter.

67. The system as recited in claim 64, wherein the means for receiving, determining, decoding, and sending are performed by a target channel adapter.

30 68. The system as recited in claim 64, wherein the means

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for receiving, determining, decoding, and sending are performed by a host channel adapter.

69. The system as recited in claim 68, wherein the means
5 for sending comprises converting the foreign protocol request to an appropriate host transaction.

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